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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate the members of the  
4 Grove Players of Downers Grove on the occasion of the  
5 organization's 75th anniversary; and

6           WHEREAS, The Grove Players of Downers Grove was founded on  
7 February 17, 1936 under the moniker of Grove Players Guild as a  
8 dramatic arts society with the goal of producing one-act plays,  
9 with payment made to directors at 25 cents per cast member; and

10           WHEREAS, In 1938, the Grove Players Guild became the  
11 Downers Grove Little Theatre; throughout the 1940s, the Grove  
12 Players Guild performed at various clubs, churches, and the  
13 Masonic Temple; and

14           WHEREAS, In 1943, due to World War II and the lack of  
15 eligible young men to cast, the Downers Grove Little Theatre  
16 discontinued operations until its reorganization in 1945-46,  
17 with the group's new optimism and prosperity reflected in the  
18 \$100 now paid to the organization's directors with plays  
19 sponsored by the Lions and Moose Fraternal organizations of  
20 Downers Grove; and

21           WHEREAS, Following the filing of Articles of Incorporation

1 in 1952, the Downers Grove Little Theatre became the Downers  
2 Grove Civic Theatre; and

3 WHEREAS, One of the group's most beloved traditions, the  
4 awarding of a scholarship to a deserving high school student  
5 excelling in the theatre arts at the Downers Grove North and  
6 South campuses, was begun during the 1961-62 season; the  
7 scholarship was later named the Lamb/Budach Award for Carter  
8 Lamb and Chuck Budach and is still awarded today; and

9 WHEREAS, In 1966, the group's first musical, Pajama Game,  
10 was staged; in 1968, the musical Oliver! was staged with an  
11 innovation of two turntables for scenery changes and was lauded  
12 by audience applause; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1979, the Downers Grove Civic Theater name gave  
14 birth to Grove Players; in the 1987-88 season, a great  
15 relationship with the Downers Grove Park District was forged  
16 when the Lincoln Center became the Grove Players performance  
17 space and has remained such to this day; and

18 WHEREAS, The 2000 production of The Wizard of Oz staged at  
19 the Tivoli Theatre in conjunction with the Village of Downers  
20 Grove Ice Festival played to packed houses with "Grove Players  
21 Presents" proudly displayed on the theater marquee; and

1           WHEREAS, The Grove Players has survived, thrived, and  
2 entertained thousands of people over 7 decades with the sole  
3 intent of providing good quality, inexpensive entertainment  
4 for a wide audience demographic, staying afloat in many  
5 uncertain economic times; therefore, be it

6           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
7 NINETY-SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we  
8 congratulate the members of the Grove Players of Downers Grove  
9 on the occasion of the organization's 75th anniversary and wish  
10 them continued success and happiness in the future; and be it  
11 further

12           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
13 presented to the Grove Players of Downers Grove as a symbol of  
14 our esteem and respect.